THE

LOCUSTS:

OR,

gom 2

Chancery Painted to the Life,

And the

Laws of ENGLAND

Try'd in

Forma Pauperis.

A

POEM.

di Profanum Vulgus & arceo. Hor. Lib. 3. Ode 1.

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Princed in the Year MDCCIV.

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THE

PREFACE.

Third it necessary to inform the Reader, that be may not be deceived in his Expectations of the following Poem, which is but as yet like the first Draught, or Out-lines and Scetches, of a Piece of Painting, which cannot properly be judged of till finished: Thoe 'ties easier to discern, even from such a rude Draught as this, whether the Strokes be masterly, and the Picture will deserve sinishing. There are many Things manting to make this seem all of a piece, which could not be conveniently brought within the narrow Limits of these few Sheets; therefore the following may not be improperly call'd the Out-lines, because there are Spaces of Time and Transactions left, as in a Picture, to colour and work it up to its design'd Magnitude, and just Proportions, if this be received with Candor.

If our Modern Lawyers had either more Learning, or more Modesty, at the Bar, they would not be so fond of exposing themselves so much to the Censure of Men of Sense of their own Country, or become the Jest and Ridicule of Strangers of all Nations. For how ridiculous

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The PREFACE.

'tis for them, few of whom are either Masters of Language or Letters, to set up for Orators, and pretend to vie with Demosthenes in the Senate, or Tully at the Bar, when alas! what they call Oratory, is nothing else but Billingsgate Dialect, or very little better. Nay, 'tis notoriously scandalous, that in our Courts of Justice, and particularly in Chancery-Mens Reputations, (of which the Law has always had equal Regard to, and been as Tender of, as Mens Estates) should lye at the Mercy of a Lawyer's Tongue, and be publickly aspers'd in open Court, perhaps, upon the bare Allegations of his Adversary, or some malicious Suggestions from the Attorney, or Sollicitor, and without Assidavits, or any manner of Evidence, to prove what they alledge.

If such Things are to be tolerated, 'tis in vain for any Man to value himself upon his Fame or Honour. For if he have a Cause in Chancery, he must expect to be traduc'd and vilisted, how cautious soever he has been

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to preserve his Reputation beforehand.

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When the Patriots in for Exection Pord. In Sent Till Selection of the Inferior Elocation

Attempted Law and Freedom to Beyour. Ror when the War McDom; the Scenter thanks.

Chancery Painted to the LIFE.

Our Laws like Lucifer from Heav n fell,

To raise a Chancery here, as he from Heav'n

made Hell

Aid me, all ye Infernal Pow'rs, to draw
This huge, fell, monitrous Hydra of the Law;
Who Prince of this Land Pow'r fecurely Reigns,

And Law and Reason Tyrant-like Disdains:

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Plac'd

Plac'd at the Helm of State, to Rule and Guide, This horrid Fiend elates it's Head with Pride.

Once England happy was when Laws did Sway,
But they'll ne'er see again that joyful Day;
When trusty Patriots up for Freedom stood,
And stemm'd the Torrent of the impetuous Flood;
When Norman William with Wars direful Pow'r,
Attempted Law and Freedom to Devour.
For when the War-like Danes the Scepter sway'd,
They rul'd by Law, and were by Laws obey'd.
No false-nam'd Courts of Equity were known,
Or Arbitrary Rules to trample down,
The Common Laws that best support the Crown.

Tell me, ye learned Sages, that have read Those Sacred Volumes that enshrine the Dead, Tell me what those Wise Legislators thought, When they for English Laws and Freedom wrote.

Body

And Law and Reafon Tyrant-like Dufdains

How

[3]

How long will Fortescue and Fleta Live,
And Littleton the Fate of Time Survive?
How Coke to endless Days be tumbled o'er,
When Lawless Chancery shall be no more?
Bacon, 'tis true, with Glory fill'd the Chair,
But then he made the Law his chiefest Care:
Others less Noble have too Partial been,
Not made the Law their Rule, but Equity their
(Screen:

'Twou'd be a Task I fear too long for Verse, had Shou'd I the Brib'ries of that Seat Rehearse, And all the foul Corruptions that arise, From base Ambition, Pride and Avarice. Here I shall stop the Venom of my Pen, And leave Hell-sire to Purge such vicious Men.

Then first, my Muse with careful heed survey
The Times of Old, when Law in Derkness lay,
And Anarchy possess'd uninterrupted Sway.

B 2

And Finn Principality and William A

When

When Men with Men promiseuously did herd. E'er Property was known, or Laws were fear'd, Then Murders, Rapes and Riots, were in Vogue, And no diffinction made of Whore and Rogue; Thieving and Incest were but Venial Crimes, As Whoring, Gaming, Drinking, to these Times: Till Reason by Experience clearly saw, Men could not long fublish without a Law. The wifer Sort in friendly Manner join'd. And quickly by a Social League combin'd For mutual Help each other's Aid they fought. And thus were into Form and Order brought. Necessity that first instructed Men to Live. Taught em by flow Degrees at length to Thrive But too luxuriant Nature has at laft. The great Design into a Labyrinth cast: And what for Use was once fo well apply'd. By lavith Prodigallity's deny'd. So vain Mankind do from their Safety fly, And for bleft Freedom Court vile Slavery.

B 2

When

After

[7] Hence did her awful Pow'r and Greatnets rife.

After some Ages in Constition past,

And nought but War succeeded War at last,
Heavin, that always was more kind to Man
Then he was to himself, did thus Ordain,
That States shou'd flourish, and that Laws
The Ligaments of all Society. (shou'd be
Then twas that Som and Licurgus rose,
And did the Force of Anarchy oppose;
Then were the Rules of Law and Justice givin,
And then Affrea did descend from Heaven.
So Sparta and learn'd Arbens did of Old,
In Wildom's Mines larger Possessions hold,
Than all the World in Silver and in Gold.

From Athens Rome her mighty Treasure brings, And by it's Laws destroy d her Tyrant Kings. The bravest Souls to noblest Acts improved and

The Godlike Brutus laid the Corner Stone

Of wholesom Laws and Liberty in Rome.

Hence

Hence did her awful Pow'r and Greatness rise, And barb'rous distant Nations thought her Wise.

Now Confuls did strict Government Ordain, I And did like Patriots, not like Tyrants, Reign; O'er all the World their easie Conquests spread, And where their Arms triumph'd, the People led; Not in base Servitude, but nobly as they Fought, And Laws Impos'd, and Civil Manners Taught. So wide of Force they did their Conquests awe, 'Twas not their Legions govern'd, but their Law. Then 'twas her Two-neck'd Eagles 'gan to fly, And spread their Wings of soft Humanity; Like Fame they soar'd, and like her much did tell, How Roman Virtue did the World excel.

How Lalius Friendship, and how Scipio's Love, The bravest Souls to noblest Acts improve. Glory spurs on, and dictates to my Theme, The mention of Immortal Cato's Name.

Of

Of Matchless Cato who'd not always hear,
Whom People, Senate, all Men held so dear?
And who with his Great Soul dare now
(compare?)

The first for Love, the next for Martial Fire.

Scipio shou'd I forget, sure I shou'd be
Guilty of the most vile Stupidity.

Rome's Consulship he never did demand,
For Rome did well his Virtues understand,
And glory'd in the Triumphs of his Hand;
He taught their Armies th' use of Civil Laws,
Which more victorious made Rome's Martial Cause.

But shou'd I Regulus or Camillus Name,
Whose Worth and Virtues far surpass their

(Fame,)

Where shou'd I hide the Vices of this Age for

of the reperof on buoo elol (Shame?)

But Cafor to their Rule prefered the Lad.

No publick Frauds for Wealth did they Contrive, But how their Country and the State might WhinhThople, Senate, all Men held fo dear ? Greatness they did not in foft Garments Cloath, But Pride contemn'd, and all th' Effects of Sloth. Thus Rome had Statefmen undelign'dly Great, Who for the Publick fcorn'd their private Fate, And all the Grandeur Int'rest cou'd create. Their lovely Deeds did for their Country proves Twas publick Justice they were taught to Love; Rome's Difcipline for Virtue was the School. The Knave to Punish, and Correct the Fool, but Great Curius and Fabritius Names feem dear When Rome base Cassius, Melius, cou'd not bear, But as the did proud Tarquin's Name with fear. Whose Worth and Virtues far Jurpass their

Thus always Rome protected Virtues Cause,
And on that Foot established all her Laws;
When Consuls cou'd no longer her Defend,
But Casar to their Rule prescrib'd the End.

O'er

[9]

O'er all the Conquests that his Arms obtain'd,
The Laws of Rome without Control there

(reign'd,

But Britain Roman Laws, tho' good, disdain'd,

She under Cafar's Government was Free,

And bore his Yoke without the Slavery.

Not Cicero's Eloquence, or Casar's Pen,
Cou'd move the Hearts of Stubborn Englishmen;
Ev'n then they were of Foreign Fashions Shy,
Not to be flatter'd out of Liberty.
By Force they yielded to Rome's conquiring Arms,
But ne'er wou'd listen to her Syren Charms.
In vain their Orators essay'd to Plead,
And strove in vain by Language to Perswade,
All Laws in England but her own will Fade.

In Course of Time, when Rome her Pow'r had (lost,

The Saxon first our Eastern Ocean crost;

Rough

10

Rough as the British Race they hit the Clime, Nor strove to alter Customs in their Time. But Laws, and Rules, and Justice, they ordain'd, Suiting to those by which the Britain's reign'd, Nor was their Freedom lost, or yet restrain'd.

But what the fam'd Dunwallo first had done,
That they establish'd to the British Crown.

Dunwallo, who Molmutine Laws assign'd,
And executed Justice in its kind:
He Temples first a Sacred Refuge made,
And did Protect the Plowman's Culter and his

(Blade;
From Thest and Rapine did the Land Desend,

So Sacred he esteem'd the Nations Cause,

And Natures Laws he made his chiefest End.

King Alfred did in Sazon write his Laws.

Nor

Nor ought my Muse pass over Guitheline,
A Famous Monarch of the British Line:
War-like and Brave he kept the Pists in Awe,
And blest his Country with the Mercian Law.

But see, how various are the Turns of Fate, Some Male-contents there are in ev'ry State; For in the best and wisest Government There will be Villains, that are discontent. For some in ev'ry Age have still been bad, But none like Englishmen are always mad: In troubled Waters still they most Delight, Are often in the Wrong, but seldom in the Right. Now lest the Saxons exercise Command, With too much Rule, and with too strict a (Hand,

The Warlike Danes they to their Aid did call, First set 'em up, and them proclaim'd their Fall.

With

With mighty Zeal they bring these Safe-guards (o'er.

Fanc'ing their Freedom loft they wou'd reftore,
And Stake their own to gain a Foreign Pow'r.
But still the Laws kept steady in the State,
Which their own Merits, not their Craft, made
(Great;

For had they not the Sence of Justice shown,
The Laws had been Subservient to the Crown:
But now for England 'tis a Happy thing,
The King makes Laws, but Laws direct the King.

Now Saxons do again their Pow'r obtain,
Not 'gainst the Laws, but with the Laws they
(Reign.

Alfred and Edgar well deserve our Praise,
Who rul'd with Justice till St. Edward's Days:
Edward who did religiously observe
The Laws, from whence he never once did swerve.

But

But when the Norman Duke assum'd the Throne, Boldly he did Attempt to've follow'd none, But what he introduc'd here of his own. In vain he did by Force the English try, For Englishmen of Norman Laws were shy; At last by flatt'ring Arts found how to Rule, The easie Statesman, and the stubborn Fool.

Tho' he to Law did subject his great Will,
The heavy Pressure gaul'd the Monarch still,
In spite of all his Policy and Skill:
That in return he yok'd the Land then Free,
Which blest the Son, who gave 'em Liberty.
For Hemy First with Mildness did withdraw,
The weight and rigour of the Norman Law.
From heavy Burdens set the People Free,
And mov'd the Force of Danegilt Slavery.
So great a Prince deserv'd a greater Name,
Had not his Brother's cruel Death eclips'd his
(Fame:

He

He Theft and Rapine punish'd by Just Laws, Nor spar'd the Robber to support the Cause; Not like King Stephen's Grants with lib'ral Hand, Who gave the Church more than they did (Demand

From Temporal Laws he set the Clergy Free,
But Bound the Lay-Men fast in Slavery;
Till Saxon Blood in Second Henry broke
The survile Fetters of the Norman Yoke.
Tho' Rome from Stephen yet usurpt a Pow'r,
Which the Church fail'd not to Improve each
(Hour:

For Church-men then did ev'ry where controul, And show'd how they cou'd Rule in Becket's Soul. Becket, who once did fill the Chanc'lor's Chair, With haughty Mien, and with as proud an Air, As if the Holy Father had himself been there. And sure there none from him can empty come But all are laden with Rich Treasures Home.

Priests

[15]

Priests well might chuse from Rome a Sov'reign (Guide,

Rome taught 'em Priest-craft, Priest-craft taught ('em Pride.

d,

id

1

But Hemy did the Antient Laws Restore, In spite of Rome and all her thundring Pow'r. Bulls had no Force, Anathema's were Vain, The King Resolv'd, and did his Pow'r Maintain.

No fooner was the Land from Rome made Free, But she return'd to her Captivity.

While Richard's Triumphs grac'd abroad his (Crown,

The Laws at Home were basely trampled down.

Ely, a subtil Church-man, so are all

That crasp at Pow'r, the Scepter and the Ball;

Who from a Dunghil did derive his Blood,
But Riches Honour made, well understood;
And

And the more than the Church he rul'd the State, He made the Law still on the Gospel wait. If he was Just, Ambition was the Cause, Pride and Vain-glory did direct the Laws; Despotick Tyranny was all his Right; His Equity nought but oppressive Might.

At last like J---s, but not half so Just,
To servile Flight he put his final Trust;
But in Disguise he felt the Peoples Rage,
Whose Fury scarce a Monarch cou'd Asswage.
For as the vilest Traytor they did haw!
And drag him into Durance like a Criminal.

When the Third Henry fill'd the English Throne, Then Justice, Law, and Liberty, were known: King Edward's Laws were once again reviv'd, And Magna Charta in full Freedom liv'd, Till Chanc'ry last to base Corruptions grown, Defil'd the Laws, and oft disturb'd the Crown.

The

For Property by Law is only known,

The Praise of English Laws my Muse relate. How they preserve the Crown, and guide the Joseph Tite Tulkice of their

In filence pass the former Ages by, And only speak of Modern Liberty.

Tell how just Judgment flows throughout the ball) Roman Lives with Engin

By Law, while Equity is at a frand. Describe this Monster that devours the State, T And makes the People tremble at their Face, will To fee by what vast Strength and Powr she 8 ways, And like Leviathan unknown pursues her Ways. Dark as the Pit of Hell, from whence the role To vex the Land, and ruin its Report inpl va But e'er this furious Fiend at large I draw not Again, I will repeat the Bleffings of the Law! How from that Source the Government is bieft. And all the People Live fecure at rest.

For

[18]

For Property by Law is only known,
Else we could ne'er distinguish what's our own.
And sure that Law secures Men best from Fears
That tries the Justice of their Cause by Peers.
No Laws more Just or Equal can be made,
Than where one Weight is with another weigh'd.

The Roman Laws with English ne'er cou'd Vie, If England was but purg'd from Chancery; That first a great Allay of Roman had, But now's the very Sink of all that's Bad. How well our Liberties survive by Law, That serves the Good, and keeps the Bad in Awe But how Notorious does the Villain Thrive By Equity if he has in his Hive Honey enough to keep the Swarm alive?

Else like true Drones they die for want of Food, For they can nothing do, that is, no Good.

copic I ive focusent reft.

But

But if we shou'd (sad Fate) to Life's last Period

And take our Sentence from the Common Law?
How Happy may we think our Selves ev'n then,
That we are to be Try'd like Englishmen.
That no base Brib'ry can our Lives betray,
Or foul Corruptions for Life's Ransom pay;
And tho we do not then our Judges chuse,
Tender of Life, the Law allows us to refuse and
Nay, ev'n so gen'rous have been made the Laws.
They savour Treason, and the Traytor's Cause.

But if the Laws now good more rigid were, of We're still secured from all Distructs on Fear but Horatio's Just, without a Stain or Blot, without a Stain or Blot, and And Judges mildly the his Temper's hot in the None e'er possessed that Sov'reign Seat so long. The With so great Honour, and so little Wrong.

Amelia has the well his Court in the

D 2

None

20.

None e'er the Laws of England better knew,
And to those Laws and Country durst be true;
Furtless of Threats, for flatt'ring Arts too great,
He Rules the Law, and by it serves the State.

And with th' exacteft Rules of Justice guides.
He Suftens all the Rigour of the Laws,
And Pleads as well as Judges every Cause:
Not like gray Publius, for some secret End,
Pronounce false Sentence to oblige his Friend.

Aurelius has so well his Court improv'd,
For Law he's follow'd, and for Justice lov'd.
And if flow Chanery quick Relief deny,
As well as Law, diffributes Equity.
Not trapped with State, and so ty'd up by Rules,
To Fetter Wise Men, and to Ruin Fools;

Non

[21]

But here Dispatch does on the Needy wait, For Law, if out of time comes oft, too late, Unless t be to conclude a Wretches Fate.

or Words like Wounds of months Steel

With equal Justice give the Law its due,
And Vertue's Pow'r, by hating Vice, pursue.

Not like proud Gracebus, laying Virtue by.
As they increase in Wealth or Dignity;
Tho Blossus did for private Ends comply,
His Soul's too great to practice Tyranny.
But Mutius does his Intrest and his Love divide,
'Twixt fordid Av'rice and ambitious Pride;
For Wealth and Honour Grongly urge their

And oft Usurp upon our Friendly Laws.

Enough of Law, my Muse, now Satyr rife, And show how Chanc'ry's stock'd with Villanies, Spare not their Crimes, but lash the worst of Men:
Accursed Crew! Oh! cou'd I make 'em seel
My biting Words like Wounds of pointed Steel,
That on their harden'd Consciences I may,
Like the tormenting Vulture, ever prey:
Or punish them, as Midas was of Old,
By turning ev'ry Limbos them to Gold.
Pure Gold, the living Idol of their Heart,
That moves, and turns, and governs, ev'ry Part;
But Heav'ns Curse allarms not then dull Fears,
Since they on others place the Asses Ears.

Tell, Satyr, how this monstrous Hydra first

Encreas'd in Pow'r till she to Hell was curs'd:

How Sixty R---s from barely Six were spawn'd,

And like young Whelps at first for Victuals fawn'd;

Then by their Masters Luxury and Fase,

Grew fat and wanton with superfluous Fees,

And now are grown the Nation's Foul Disease.

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They

[23]

They but demand, and what they ask they have, And while the Purse is full, they always crave. So greedy nought will cure their itching Paws, Unless you fright'em with a Pauper Cause.

'Tis strange they shou'd from worse to worse (extend,

Be thus corrupt, and none their Manners mend;
While they do to their Masters Vices trust,
To theirs, and to their own, are truly just,
And are to Avarice, like Bawds to Lust.

may be the view could be number Sing repent

Beside this buzzing Swarm of hungry Scribes, You've Registers that seed on nought but Bribes: So sharp and quick, that ev'ry Line they write Passes' mong Lawing Fools for Sterling Wit; While wisely they with ev'ry Side comply, That with the ready Coin their Favours buy. Bless me! What Prodigies are these we see I to That nothing now will thrive but Villany!

Savage

Savage we're grown, or Centains fure at leaft : Half may be Man, the greater half is Beaft : A Virtue has long been starving with her Prize, For Equity would never let her rife; was Interested And that's a Paradox: For fuch a Doom Was never known in Greece, or Antient Rome. Plague, Fire & Civil War, have had their Courfe, But Time recovers their destroying Force, Yet fettles Chanc'ry on us as a greater Curfe. Don't Regleides at Tyburn oft relent, or are but And wish they cou'd of former Sins repent? So Chanc'ry Men with all the Signs of Grace, Look fanctify'das B --- t in the Face: But like that Subtil Presbyterian Saint, 'Tis Hypocritical and downright Cant: Next, Satyr, tell how Secretaries guide, The Chancey Rudder, and steer with the Tide Of Lucre, Greatness, Luxury and Pride, Let Poverty appear in the best Dress Of Justice, Law, or virtuous Distress.

BEVEC

VVith

[25]

With all the moving Rhetorick of Need, Enough to make a Jew of Venice bleed, 33ed and W In vain this Pauper may Petition on, sais on mad I For he no Answer shall have but Belgone a daiW Alas! his Story is a formal Lie, on the sugarant And when fuch Caufes come in Chancery, How scandalous a thing is Poverty! w. 19 on 11) Good Heavens! that Men shou'd ever thus devise To punish Virtue by fuch Villanies; does but A The poor Man that folicites his own Caufe, and 4 First runs the Hazard of this Monster's Jaws, Then all th' Armado on the Pauper draws. Sollicitors! how numirous are their Fry, That for the Pence will Pimp, and Swear, and Lie, And venture now and then at Forgery? But they're below the Dignity of Verse, And wou'd defile my Satyr to rehearfe. Then boldly paint the Gownsmen at the Bar, Nor for the Men their hated Vices spare.

Distributed of Meed,

Whos better fit to fill th' Q --- n's S--- ts Place, Than he that can like Nice Sir T---'s Drefs; With a foft Tone, and moving Eloquence, Harangue the Crowd with very little Sence; Commend alike the Vicious and the Good, But ne'er without his Fee be understood? H--- t's a Babbler, D--b--ns tiresome grows, And bauls fo long till he has tir'd the Cause, While C-p-runs away with the Applause. Much Law he pleads from little of his own, Yet more sometimes than to the World is known, 'Tis pity he had nothing else to fay, Than tell the Senate, and his Sence betray. That Law in England was not understood, When Bracton, Britton, Glanvile, thought it good: But modern Law is quite another Case, Noise now for Law, and Words for Learning pass:

Else

Else why shou'd 7-n-gs plead within the Bar, VVho from good VVit and Learning is as far As is th' Antartick from the Artick Star.

He drudg'd at Law as Threshers at a Flail, And might drudge on if he'd not learn to Rail, If Billingsgate sirst had not taught him well, How he his Master's Rhetorick might excel.

V-r-n for Fees will plead the Villain's Cause,
But let the Pauper perish by the Laws:
For he that Money only strives to get,
By Mis'ry still anticipates his Fate,
And starves himself to make some other great.

So W---k, H-p-r, C-n-rs, J-k-ll, thrive,
And in Contempt of kind Compassion live.

They prosper as th' insatiate Jews of Old,
Who all the Blessings of their Canaan Sold,
And sacrific'd their very Souls for Gold.

'n.

s:

Hold,

con and Archief co

Elfe why flioled Jon- 2s plead within the Bar, Hold, Satyr, Stop the Venom of thy Sting; Rife, Brighter Mufe, and of Trebonius fing; 212A Tell allithe World how Justice fills that Seat, II Makes England Happy, and Trebonius Great. A Does he not girlde his Confcience by the Law, And by that Conference keep base Rogues in Awe? Devouring Harpies, that for Gold would fell Their Country, Office, or Themselves, to Hell. But he their Crimes with Vengeance will purfue; And give to them, as to the Just, their Due. Has he not purg'd from rankest Bribery His Offices, that Iwarm with Villany? See but how Bankrupts are twice Bankrupts made By double Fees, and by the fubtil Trade of both Of Secretaries, Sealers, Clarks, and Knaves, That lord it o'er poor Suiters as their Slaves. But let fuch in Eternal Flames Expire, was but Gorgons, and Hydra's, and Chimera's, Dire.

FINIS.